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U. S. Department of Agriculture

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
339 Post Office Building,
New Orleans, Louisiana,
April 19, 1927.

CANE BORER DAMAGE AGAIN ESTIMATED
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PLACES LOSS FOR 1926 AT 16% OF A NORMAL CROP
OR 38,352 TONS OF SUGAR.

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The Bureaus of Agricultural Economics and Entomology, of the United States Department of Agriculture, have again cooperated in estimating the loss caused by the sugar cane moth borer to the sugar crop in Louisiana. Through their offices in New Orleans, the two Bureaus find that the borer gnawing through the stalks of sugar cane during the season of 1926, caused a loss of 16% of a normal crop, or 38,352 tons of sugar. In other words, without the borer that much more sugar would have been produced.

This means the tremendous loss of 76,704,000 pounds of sugar during a year when the notorious "cane borer" was not at its worst. And only the loss for cane actually used for sugar is estimated. No account is taken of the damage to the cane used for syrup nor to planted seed cane, in which borer damage brings about ruined "eyes", from which plants can not grow, and diseased stalks which can not support the young plants before they take root. There is also a great loss to corn which is not taken into account.

The two Bureaus, through Mr. Lionel L. Janes, Agricultural Statistician, and Messrs. T. E. Holloway and W. E. Haley, Entomologists, have been cooperating in this annual estimate for several years, each Bureau estimating the damage in its own way and comparing the figures when all have been compiled. The two sets of figures have been found to agree in a surprising manner.

Estimates of loss for the series of years are as follows:

Year	Acreage in cane used only for sugar.	Loss caused by sugar cane moth borer in % of a normal crop.	Loss caused by sugar cane moth borer in short tons of sugar.	Loss caused by sugar cane moth borer in pounds of sugar.
1922	241,433	17	61,565	123,130,830
1923	217,259	23	74,959	149,908,710
1924	162,640	13	13,715	63,429,600
1925	190,248	30	85,612	171,223,200
1926	159,800	16	38,352	76,704,000
5-year average	194,276	19.8	58,990	116,879,268

The Bureau of Entomology, to control the pest, advocates the non-burning of the cane leaves and tops left in the fields after cutting, this practise tending to preserve a native egg parasite. It also advocates the introduction of foreign parasites. In addition, steps are being taken for the treatment of "seed" cane to destroy the over-wintering borers. The application of poisons to the growing plants by airplane will be further tested.

LIONEL L. JANES,
Agricultural Statistician

T. E. HOLLOWAY,
Entomologist

W. E. HALEY,
Entomologist

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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